Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1773 - August 5 2011

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1773 with a release date of Friday, August 5th 2011 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The FCC dismisses a rule making request that would have barred convicted felons from holding amateur radio licenses, an update on the S-T-Zero-R South Sudan DX operation, the British Amateur Television Club offers free Internet streaming to all of ham radio and the latest on ARISSat-1? Is it on-orbit yet? Find out on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1773 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RADIO LAW: FCC DISMISSES PETITION TO BAR ALL CONVICTED FELONS FROM HOLDING HAM LICENSES

The FCC has turned away a petition for rule making that asked that convicted felons be barred from holding an amateur radio license. Amateur Radio Newslne's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has the details:

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In its July 29th letter to Bernard J. Parker, K5BP, of Dallas Texas, the FCC stated that it was dismissing his Rule Making request filed May 25, 2011 that dealt with a rules change request to bar convicted felons from holding amateur radio service licenses.

In its dismissal order the FCC stated that before it will revoke a license or deny an application based on the felony conviction, that it takes into consideration factors that may mitigate a licensee's felonious misconduct.

For example, the Commission says that it reviews the willfulness of the misconduct; the frequency of the misconduct; how recently the misconduct occurred; the seriousness of the misconduct; efforts made to remedy the wrong and the persons overall record of compliance with FCC rules and policies. It also takes under consideration any form of rehabilitation that a convicted felon may have been subject to.

The FCC went on to say that Parker has not presented grounds for the Commission to revisit this policy. It stated that Parker's argument that the policy is contrary to the basis and purpose of the amateur service fails to recognize that the Commission has an established process for assessing whether a felony conviction is grounds for denying participation in the amateur radio service.

The FCC then continued that Parker offered no persuasive argument for barring anyone convicted of any felony from ever obtaining an amateur radio operator license and that he gave no evidence that the current policy is undermining the purpose of the amateur radio service. Nor

that it is otherwise contrary to the public interest.

Rather, says the Dismissal order, Parker's petition relies entirely on the case of a single amateur licensee and does not discuss why a higher standard should apply to the amateur service than to other communications services.

Thus, says Scot Stone who is Deputy Chief of the FCC's Mobility Division, a felony conviction does not necessarily disqualify all people from holding am amateur service license. Rather, the question of disqualification is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Based on its findings the FCC has concluded that the regulatory change petition filed by Bernard J. Parker presents no evidence of an existing problem that has not been considered before, or other evidence meriting a rule change. Therefore, Parkers petition has ben dismissed.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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Who the amateur the Parker petition was referring to was not mentioned by name or call in the FCC dismissal order. Nor is it known if Parks will appeal the staff decision dismissing his petition to ban convicted felons from the amateur service to the entire commission or possibly into the Federal courts. (FCC)

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DX NEWS: ST0R CONTINUES TO RACK UP CONTACTS FROM THE SOUTH SUDAN

The ST0R operations from the newly created Republic of the South Sudan continues to work through the pile ups. By Monday, August 1st U-T-C time the contact number was passing the 60,000 QSO mark. They continue to operate five stations and are trying to get as many QSO's as possible before its time for them to secure their operations.

As is the custom and practice of the Intrepid-DX Group, they invited local youth to visit see the operation. 25 boys from the Juba Secondary Boy's Academy have already visited. They were given a tour of the ST0R where they were the various aspects of amateur radio were demonstrated. They also listened in as QSO's were made around the world. Their visit was recorded in photos now posted at tinyurl.com/juba-students

The ST0R DXpedition and will continue to be active through August 10th. We will have more DX news later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (Intrepid DX Group)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ARISSAT-1 NOW ON ORBIT

The ARISSAT One ham radio satellite is now on-orbit. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in our Newsroom with the latest

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ARISSat-1 telemetry: Hear it in the MP3 audio version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

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In NASA-ese, that's the sound of a satellite on-orbit. In this case it's the two meter downlink of the brand new ARISSat-1 that was successfully deployed from the International Space Station at 14:43 EDT on Wednesday, August 3rd .

Russia's Sergei Volkov, RU3DIS, was the space walking cosmonaut who actually hand-tossed the box-like satellite into space. This, after he and fellow space walker Alexander Samokutyaev pushed the 57 pound ARISSat-1 through an air-lock and away from the ISS, but not without incident.

Soon after the spacewalk began, the astronauts and flight controllers realized one of two 70centimeter antennas may have somehow broken off the satellite. Experts on the ground have no idea how or when it may have happened, but after debating for close to three hours, Mission Control instructed Volkov to release it. As he did, Samokutyaev photographed the event as ARISSat-1 left the space station at a rate of just over 3 feet per second. Not long after ARISSat-1 was in space, its telemetry beacon was received by JR8LWY as the satellite passed over Japan.

According to several sources, the transmitting capability of ARISSat-1 will not be affected by the loss of that antenna, but the reception of signals from the ground might be somewhat degraded. None the less, test transmissions its voice transponder by AMSAT Vice President for Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, proved that ARISSat-1 is a viable relay station in space at power levels on the uplink as low as 1 watt:

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KO4MA test audio: Hear it in the MP3 audio version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

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According to Glasbrenner, he was able to hear himself with as little as 1 watt on the 0425 UTC pass. His antenna system consisted of an M2 CP42 with right hand circular polarization on the uplink and a 10 element horizontal yagi for reception. We took the audio file supplied to us by Dave Marthouse, N2AAM, applied a bit of digital filtering magic and KO4MA, literally popped out of the background noise. Take a listen:

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KO4MA test audio noise reduced: Hear it in the MP3 audio version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

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So whats next for ARISSat-1. According to a news release from AMSAT, full operational capability of the satellite is still under underway to evaluate its performance with the missing UHF antenna. Those hearing ARISSat-1 are asked to submit reception signal reports on amsat-bb and via the mission's e-mail boxes on located at www.amsat.org.

In the meantime, you can keep an ear on the bird and listen not only for the sound of its telemetry, but also for the voices of people from around the world speaking in many languages and sending greetings like this recorded by Richard Flagg, AH6NM during an earlier test of ARISSat-1 while it was still on-board the ISS:

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Greetings audio: Hear it in the MP3 audio version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org.

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Right now, the best place to listen out for ARISSat-1 is on 145.95 MHz. If it passes overhead, you will hear it even with as modest antenna such as the dual band vertical in the attic we have here.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, on the U-S West coast in the City of Angels.

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More on ARISSAT One in future Amateur Radio Newsline reports. (ANS, ARISS, AH6NM, AH6RH, N2AAM, others)

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BREAK 1

>From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the K9OQO repeater serving Appleton, Wisconsin.

(5 sec pause here)

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HAM RADIO POLITICS: IARU REGION 1 MEETING TO BE WEBCAST

The upcoming International Amateur Radio Union General Conference to be held August 12th to the 19th in Sun City, South Africa will be streamed live to the Internet. To access it in real time, you will need to take your web browser to live.datamatix.at:8032/listen.pls to activate the stream. If you do so before the meeting begins you should hear the following announcement:

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IARU Audio: "Welcome to the IARU Region 1 audio stream from the General Conference in Sun City. The live vtransmission will start with the opening meeting."

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We tested the audio stream on a PC running the Windows 7 operating system using several popular media players. These included Real Player, Microsoft Media Player and Winamp. All three brought up the stream with no problem, albeit in our case we found Winamp to give the best overall quality.

Again the dates to the IARU Region 1 conference is August 12th to the 19th. The planners welcome you to listen in on-line. (IARU R1)

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HAM RADIO AND 911: KCRA TO OPERATE COMMEMORATIVE STATION FROM CONFERENCE HOUSE

New York City's Kings County Repeater Association has announced that it will be a part of the 911 events commemorative events to be held at the historic Conference House on Staten Island. The group plans to operate under the clubs KC2RA call sign to honor those who lost their lives on September 11th, 2001. This after middle-East fanatics high jacked four U-S flag carrying jetliners, crashing two into the World Trade Center towers in New York and a third into the Pentagon near Washington DC. The forth plane crashed in rural Pennsylvania when the passengers on-board challenged the al Quida lead air pirates.

The operation by the Kings County Repeater Association will take place on September 10th from 1300 to 2100 hours UTC on 7.250 lower and 14.295 MHz upper sideband. There will also be local operation on the New York City 146.430 Mhz repeater that uses an access tone of 136.5 hertz and world-wide using Echolink node 132967 which is the KC2LEB repeater. Frequencies on the high frequency bands may vary due to conditions and usage. Operations may not be on all frequencies at the same time. Please QSL with a a self addressed stamped envelope to the Kings ounty Repeater Association 911 Memorial Event, PO Box 280288, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0288

By way of background, the museum from where the operation will occur is named in memory of the September 11, 1776 conference convened at that location in an attempt to end the Revolutionary War. In attendance were British Admiral Lord Richard Howe, and American representatives including John Adams and Benjamin Franklin. The conference failed because of Howe demands the colonists revoke the Declaration of Independence. (KCRA)

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HAM RADIO AND 911: N3U TO COMMEMORATE 911 FROM PENNSYLVANIA

Also, listen out for special event station N3U stroke Flt93 to be

activated once again from September 8th to the 15th. Its stated purpose is to remind amateur radio operators world-wide of the tragic events that happened near Shanksville, Pensylvania, New York City and Washington DC on September 11, 2001.

United Airlines Flight 93 was a scheduled morning transcontinental flight across the United States from Newark International Airport in to San Francisco International Airport. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, the Boeing 757 aircraft was hijacked by four al-Qaeda terrorists as part of the September 11 attacks. It subsequently crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania during an attempt by some of the passengers to regain control. Although the evidence remains inconclusive, it is widely presumed the intended target was the United States Capitol or possibly the White House.

Its known that after the hijackers had taken control of the plane, several passengers and flight attendants were able to make telephone calls and learn that attacks had been made on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Virginia. As a result, some of the passengers decided to try to regain control of the aircraft. During the attempt, the plane crashed into a field in Stonycreek Township, near Shanksville in Somerset County, Pennsylvania, about 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. All on board were killed.

This year's operation will take place during 10th anniversary and the Memorial Dedication for the victims of United Flight 93. If you happen to make contact with N3U, QSL's for this special commemorative operation go with a stamped self addressed envelope to N3U/Flt 93 via W3PN, either direct or via the bureau. (OPDX)

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RESCUE RADIO: HF LINK ALE TEST AUGUST 5 TO 15

Hams world-wide are being invited to participate in 10 days of High Frequency Automatic Link Establishment activity on the air. The purpose of this event is to encourage A-L-E communication techniques among amateur radio operators globally. The operation will begin at 00:01 UTC on Friday August 5th and continue through 23:59 UTC on Monday August 15th. This H-F Interoperability Event is an on-the-air international exercise to determine readiness for High Frequency Emergency Disaster Relief and Networking communications for the amateur radio service. More is on-line at hflink.com/aotaw. (HF LINK)

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ENFORCEMENT: SACRAMENTO WOMAN ACCUSED OF MAKING 2457 CALLS TO 911 SINCE JUNE

The California Highway Patrol says that while there was never any emergency, that didn't stop a Sacramento woman from allegedly making 2,457 calls to the states 911 emergency response number since June.

According to CHP Officer Adrian Quintero, the woman identified as Jennifer Arguelles, age 44 was arrested after allegedly placing more than 130 non-emergency calls to 911 dispatchers on one Wednesday

morning alone. Authorities claim that Arguelles dialed 911 some 180 times for non-emergencies on July 4 and during the month of June, called 911 for non-emergencies 2,147 times.

News reports say that Arguelles was always polite when she called in but would eventually hang up on dispatchers. By law they were required to call her back and make sure she didn't have an emergency.

Officer Quintero told the press that Arguelles used three different cell phones to make the 911 calls. Arguelles is facing a misdemeanor for unlawful use of the 911 system. (Published news reports)

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RADIO LAW: MICROSOFT NAMED TO BE A WHITE SPACE DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR

Microsoft Corporation has been designated a white-spaces database administrator by the Federal Communications Commission. This brings the number nationwide to 10.

The purpose of the database and its administrator is to provide a reference for the unlicensed devices now authorized to operate between TV channels. Under the FCC's rules governing the use of white spaces, unlicensed devices must ping a database to make sure frequencies aren't occupied by licensed users. A white-space database must maintain a registry of fixed unlicensed devices and protected services such as full- and low-power TV transmissions, broadcast auxiliary facilities, private land mobile and commercial radio operations.

The commission issued a call for white-space database managers in late 2009. Nine responded, and all were conditionally designated in January of this year. Microsoft didn't apply until April of this year. The FCC now has made Microsoft administrator number 10. Along with the other nine designated administrators, Microsoft's database will be subject to a trial period of at least 45 days. (TVB)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE IN ENFIELD CT IN OCTOBER

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word from the North East Weak Signal Group that it will sponsor the combined Eastern VHF/UHF Conference and Microwave Update 2011 Conference in Enfield, Connecticut from October 13th to the 16th. The venue this year is the Holiday Inn Hotel in Enfield. This is the hotel formerly known as the Crowne Plaza. More information on the convention, its participants and the planned program, along with hotel and conference registration information can be found on-line at www dot microwaveupdate dot org. (WZ1V)

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HAM HAPPENINGS: AMSAT SEEKS PRESENTATIONS FOR 2011 SPACE SYMPOSIUM

A first call has gone out to solicit papers to be presented at the 2011 AMSAT Space Symposium. The event is slated for Friday, November 4th

through Sunday, November 6th at the Wyndham San Jose Hotel, San Jose, California. Proposals for papers, symposium presentations and poster presentations are invited on any topic of interest to the amateur satellite community. A tentative title of a presentation is required as soon as possible. The final copy must be submitted by October 1st for inclusion in the printed proceedings. Abstracts and papers should be sent as soon as possible to Dan Schultz, N8FGV, by e-mail to n8fgv (at) amsat (dot) org (N8FGV)

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NAMES IN THE NEWS: LEO LAPORTE NOW KJ6QGP

And a warm welcome to amateur radio to TWIT.TV network founder Leo Laporte who now sports the call letters KJ6QGP. But not for long.

With the urging and guidance of both Bob Heil in Gordon West, the self proclaimed "Chief Twit and President of the Internet" has already applied for a vanity call sign and expects W6TWT to reflect the name of his fledgling media empire: "This Week in Technology." He may already have that callsign as we go to air.

Leo, who is known quite well in the world of both the media and by the public as the go-to tech guy, has been a fixture on radio and television for many years. He became involved in the hobby through his association with ham radio's Mr. Audio, Bob Heil, K9EID. This, when he discovered Bob's professional line of microphones and made them his standard mic for all of his live to air and recorded programming.

Bob has been a guest on several Twit interview shows. But the impetus to get his license and perhaps the thing that convinced Leo to launch the "Ham Nation" podcast was when Leo attended Bob's amateur radio reception at the 2011 National Association of Broadcasters convention last April. The two became close friends and with a little help from Bob and ham radio educator Gordon West, WB6NOA, Leo has now become a member of the ham radio fraternity.

Leo studied for and passed his Technician class license while maintaining his nearly 20 hours per week live broadcast schedule and while overseeing the construction of his new 10,000 square ft. studio and transmission center which opened July 24. Word is that he's planning to take the "General" in about a month. We wish him the very best. (ARNewsalineT)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO SCIENCE: WHAT LIGHT BULB DESIGNATIONS MEAN

Light bulb descriptions can seem mysterious and at times totally unfathomable. That said but they tell a lot about any given lamp.

Many bulb descriptions include a letter followed by a number. A few examples are such nomenclatures as BR30, PAR20, ED28 and T8. The letters are a code for bulb shape and the number is the diameter of the bulb, at the widest point, in 1/8inch increments. To calculate the diameter in inches, simply divide the number by 8.

Now look at a typical fluorescent bulb description: F32T8/841. Translation: F is fluorescent, 32 is watts, T is shape , in this case tubular. The second set of numbers such as an 8 is diameter 1 inch and 841 gives you the color temperature information. Here the first number tells you the color temperature range while the second two numbers indicate color temperature In ths example 41 means 4100K. And as Mr. Spock of Star Trek fame might say: Its all quite logical after its explained. (Science OnLine)

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RADIO FROM SPACE: MISSING SPACE ORBITER FOUND ON THE MOON

NASA scientists believe they may have found the final resting place of a 1960's space probe which took what some consider as being the definitive picture of the 21st century. This, before it crash-landed on the far side of the Moon.

The information comes in new imagery radioed back to Earth from the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. This is a spacecraft sent up to circle the Moon under the Bush administration's plan for a manned return to the lunar surface as a precursor to manned missions to Mars. The orbiter was intended to map the lunar surface in unprecedented detail, perhaps discovering useful ice deposits or crater-rim landing sites where solar power would be available year round.

All that became moot when Congress refused to fund the Moonbase plans and president Obama eventually axed them. But the lunar probe has nonetheless produced many fascinating finds. Now, NASA believe that it may have discovered the crash site of a previous Lunar Orbiter 2.

Lunar Orbiter 2 had a similar mission to the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, in that it was sent up to help with selection of landing sites for the Apollo moon missions. However the instrumentation of that era was far less sophisticated than todays.

Despite not being a total success in the matter of moon mapping, Lunar Orbiter 2 did achieve lasting fame when it sent back a stunning oblique image of the Copernicus crater in 1967 dubbed "the picture of the century" by news media. Later that year, its mission complete, the Orbiter was disposed of by commanding it to crash-land on the far side of the moon.

Its exact resting place has never been known, but now the operators of

the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter have found what they believe is a tell-tale impact site just at the coordinates where the Orbiter should have come down.

It's not yet certain that this marks the final resting place of the greatest robot photographer of the last century, but scientists are working on confirmation. They say, stay tuned for more. (Science On_Line)

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WORLDBEAT: SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE CONSIDERS ON-AIR YOUTH FORUM

The South African Radio League Council is considering the formation of an on-the-air youth forum. The objective is to create a space where young radio amateurs can share ideas and talk to each other. The forum will be run with connections to various repeaters and HF. One proposal is to run it once a month at an early evening time slot. The Council would like to begin operations sometime in early December. (SARL)

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RADIOSPORTS: WRTC2014 RELEASES NEW PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

A new promotional video for the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship games has been released by the events planners. Produced for the planners by noted film maker James Brooks, 9V1YC, the video showcases the aspect of radiosports along with showing the planning that goes into preparing to host an event of this magnitude.

For those not aware, the World Radiosport Team Championship or WRTC is held every four years. The games consist of approximately 50 two-person teams of amateur radio operators from around the globe competing in a test of operating skill. Unlike most on-the-air competitions, all stations are required to use identical antennas and to operate from the same geographic region. This eliminates all variables except operating skill and ability.

Hosting rights for the 2014 WRTC have been awarded to the New England WRTC2014 Organizing Committee. This organization is a newly-formed independent group, and not part of any existing organization, national society, or club and has taken the point position oin preparing for this ham radio Olympian-like event. You can see the new promotional video on-line at tinyurl.com/wrtc2014. More information on the planning of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship 2is on-line at wrtc2014.org.

(WRTC2014, Southgate, ARNewsline(tm))

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ON THE AIR: 8J1A TO CELEBRATE HAM FAIR 2011

To celebrate the Ham Fair amateur radio convention in Tokyo, Japan, special event station 8J1A will be activated between August 1st and the 28th. Planners say to expect stations to be active on all bands and

using all modes. If you contact 8J1A, QSL via the J-A-R-L bureau.

(JARL, ICPO)

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DX

In DX, word that I2DMI, will be on the air as CE0Y from Easter Island through Monday, August 8th. His operations are on 80 through 10 meters, including 17 and 12 meters using mostly RTTY. QSL via his home callsign, direct or via the bureau. His log will be uploaded to Logbook of the World and eQSL.

Members of the Dutch Low Land DXpedition Team are planning a trip to Luxembourg from August 30th to September 6th. Operators PA3EWP, PA9JO, PA7FM and PA1AW will be signing their individual home callsigns portable LX for this operation which will encompass all bands from 160 through 2 meters. The team is willing to accept activity requests reflecting the demand for the LX prefix worldwide. More details are available on line at lx2011 dot lldxt dot nl QSL all callsigns via PA1AW.

Another Netherlands-based team who are all members of the Dutch Amateur Radio Contest and Expedition team will be active as PA9M stroke MU from Guernsey between October 23rd to the 30th. Operations will be on 160 through 6 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via PA9M, direct or by the via the bureau.

Lastly, KBZ0ZIA is now active from Djibouti City as J28FJ and will be there through the spring of 2012. New to DXing, he is currently set up to work 40 through 10 meters mostly SSB, but he may do some changes later. He plans to make a special QSL card for his stay in Africa. QSL via his home callsign.

(Above from various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: BATC OFFERS FREE STREAMING SERVICE TO HAM RADIO EVENTS

And finally this week, if you want to webcast a ham radio happening to the world, the British Amateur Television Club is ready and eager to supply the assistance that you might need. According to an e-mail from Ian Abel, G3ZHI, the club has a high capacity streaming server available to any individual radio amateur or ham radio group that would like to use it for webcasting a ham radio event. According to G3ZHI, the server capacity was large enough to stream the recent AMSAT UK Space Colloquium:

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G3ZHI: "Last weekend we has AMSAT on for the whole of the weekend. We had about 100 in, and we had people all over the world watching the

AMSAT-UL webcast."

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Nor is live netcasting the only aspeact of this free video streaming operation. Abel says that the BATC site is also a video repository for those who want to have their video material made available on-line:

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G3ZHI: "The other good thing that may be of interest is that on the website you can not only watch live events of other peoples webcasts happening in real time, but there is also on the film archive so that any webcasts that have happened are also saved on the server if people wan't to do that. Then they can thn save it in the Film Archive so that others can look at them. So it's a great resource."

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Ian tells Newsline that it is very easy to webcast and only requires the Adobe video encoder which is a free download and that use of the British Amateur Television Club streaming service is also free. If you are interested in making use of this service please contact Ian by e-mail to g3zhi (at) hotmail (dot) com. More information and the video archive is on-line at www dot batc dot tv. (G3ZHI)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the British Amateur Television Club, the Southgate News and Australia's WIA News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita California, 91350

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, in Southern Mississippi saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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